

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release Monday, Nov. 24, 2008 Media Contact: Tom Hudachko Public Information Officer (o)801-538-6232 (m) 801-560-4649 After-hours media phone 801-209-2591

HHS Sec. Leavitt Encourages Seniors to Shop Around for Medicare Coverage

WHAT: U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt will encourage Medicare beneficiaries to compare plans during Medicare's Fall Open Enrollment period, which runs from November 15 to December 31, 2008, at a press conference at the State Capitol. Some beneficiaries may see significant premium increases or changes – such as reduced coverage in the gap – if they stay in the same prescription drug plan in 2009.

Several tools and resources are available to help beneficiaries make smart choices about their health and drug coverage. People with Medicare can receive assistance in reviewing and choosing a plan by attending a Medicare Open Enrollment event, contacting a state, county, or city office on aging, visiting www.medicare.gov, or calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

WHO: HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt

Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert

Dr. David Sundwall, UDOH Executive Director

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008

3:45 p.m.

WHERE: State Capitol Gold Room

Salt Lake City, Utah